TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION IN SOUTH FLORIDA

December 09, 1991

The Right Reverent Calvin O. Schofield
Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida
525 N.E. 15th Street
Miami, Fl. 33132

Dear Bishop Schofield:

One of our members has told us that St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is engaged in negotiations with Constructa Properties concerning the future of its Coconut Grove church property. We understand that these negotiations involve plans to remove the large oak trees which now shade the church yard and to construct a two-story, underground parking garage.

I had the opportunity to visit the property of St. Stephen's and found it to be a well cared for, human-scale facility. We are concerned that Coconut Grove might lose one more element of its historic heritage, one more element of what makes this part of Miami attractive to so many segments of the population of Dade County. As discussions with Constructa Properties proceed we urge you to give due weight to those values which enrich all of us although they cannot be measured in dollars. No human craftsman could replace the beautiful, specimen live oak trees on your church property. No construction company can create a single Mocking Bird to sing in the live oaks.

The property between St. Stephen's and the Barnacle is under consideration for acquisition under the CARL (Conservation And Recreation Lands) program of the State of Florida. We would like to envision the canopy of St.Stephen's live oaks as an extension of the tree canopy of the Barnacle addition.

Sincerely,

Karsten A. Rist

Karsten A. Rist
Conservation Chairman

cc.: Yaromir Steiner, Constructa Properties
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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